

Governor's Water Augmentation, Innovation, and Conservation Council Post-2025 AMAs Committee October 5, 2021



Agenda

- I. Welcome – Cheryl Lombard, Committee Co-Chair
- II. Prescott AMA Exempt Well Study Group Concepts – Ron Doba, Northern Arizona
Municipal Water Users Association (NAMWUA)
- III. Next Steps
- IV. Adjournment



Webinar Logistics

- Please state your name when speaking.
- Mute yourself when not speaking.
- Indicate you wish to speak by typing your name in the chat box, and you will be invited to unmute and speak.
- Please message “Everyone” in the chat.
- The meeting and chat will be recorded.

Technical issues? Send a **direct message** to **ADWR-Host** in the chat, call the ADWR Help Desk at 602-771-8444 or email tickets@azwater.gov.



I. Welcome



Cheryl Lombard

*Post-2025 Active Management Areas
Committee Co-Chairs*

An aerial photograph of a vast agricultural landscape. A multi-lane highway runs diagonally from the bottom center towards the top. The fields are divided into large, rectangular plots of various colors, including green, brown, and tan. In the far distance, a range of mountains is visible under a clear sky. A semi-transparent white circle is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing the text.

Recent Meetings

Presentation and Discussion on these interconnected issues

- June 22nd – Groundwater in the Assured Water Supply Program
- August 10th – Unreplenished Groundwater Withdrawals
- September 9th – Hydrologic Disconnect

Next Steps

October through December –
Considering issues holistically, fine-tune
most realistic, supported strategies and
solutions to address the three issues.

- Wednesday, October 27th –
Development of Solutions
- GWAICC December 9th – Present
general-consensus proposals

2022 – Continue discussion to develop
additional strategies and solutions

II. Prescott AMA Exempt Well Study Group Concepts




Ron Doba, Program Manager
NAMWUA

GOVERNOR'S WATER AUGMENTATION, INNOVATION AND CONSERVATION COUNCIL POST-2025 AMAs COMMITTEE

Exempt Wells

**Study Group Draft
Recommendations**

STUDY GROUP FOCUS

1. Exempt well impact on the Prescott AMA
 2. Exemption from connecting to a CWS when it cost less to drill an exempt well
 3. Impact to CWS caused by well spacing requirements
- 
- A series of three parallel white diagonal lines extending from the bottom right corner towards the center of the slide.

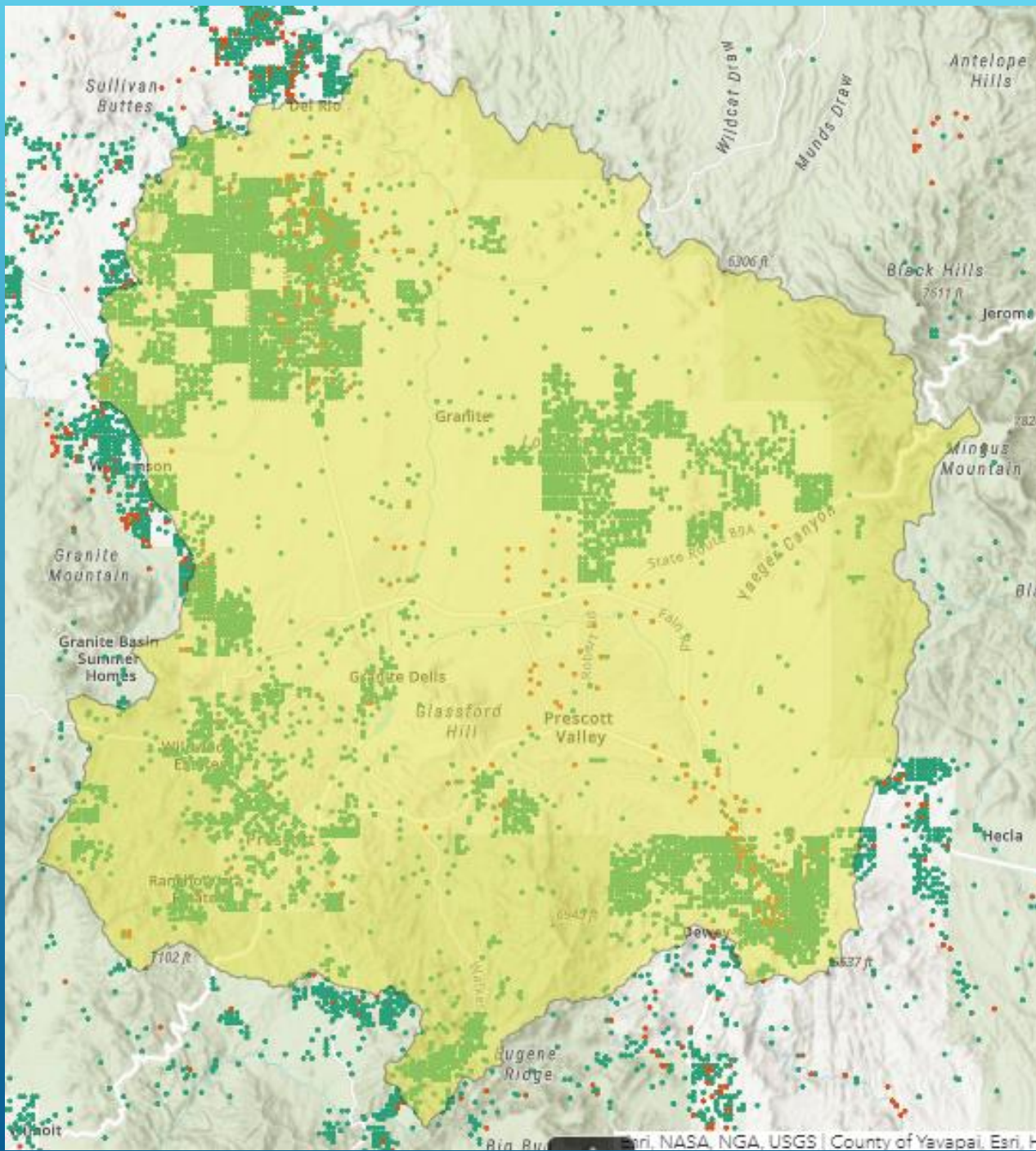
STUDY GROUP PARTICIPANTS

1. City of Prescott
2. Town of Prescott Valley
3. Town of Chino Valley

▶ **THE EXEMPT WELL ISSUE IS NOT A NEW CONCERN FOR THE PRESCOTT AMA**

- ▶ SWAG (2006)
- ▶ Arizona Water Atlas (2010)
- ▶ The ADWR Strategic Vision (2014)

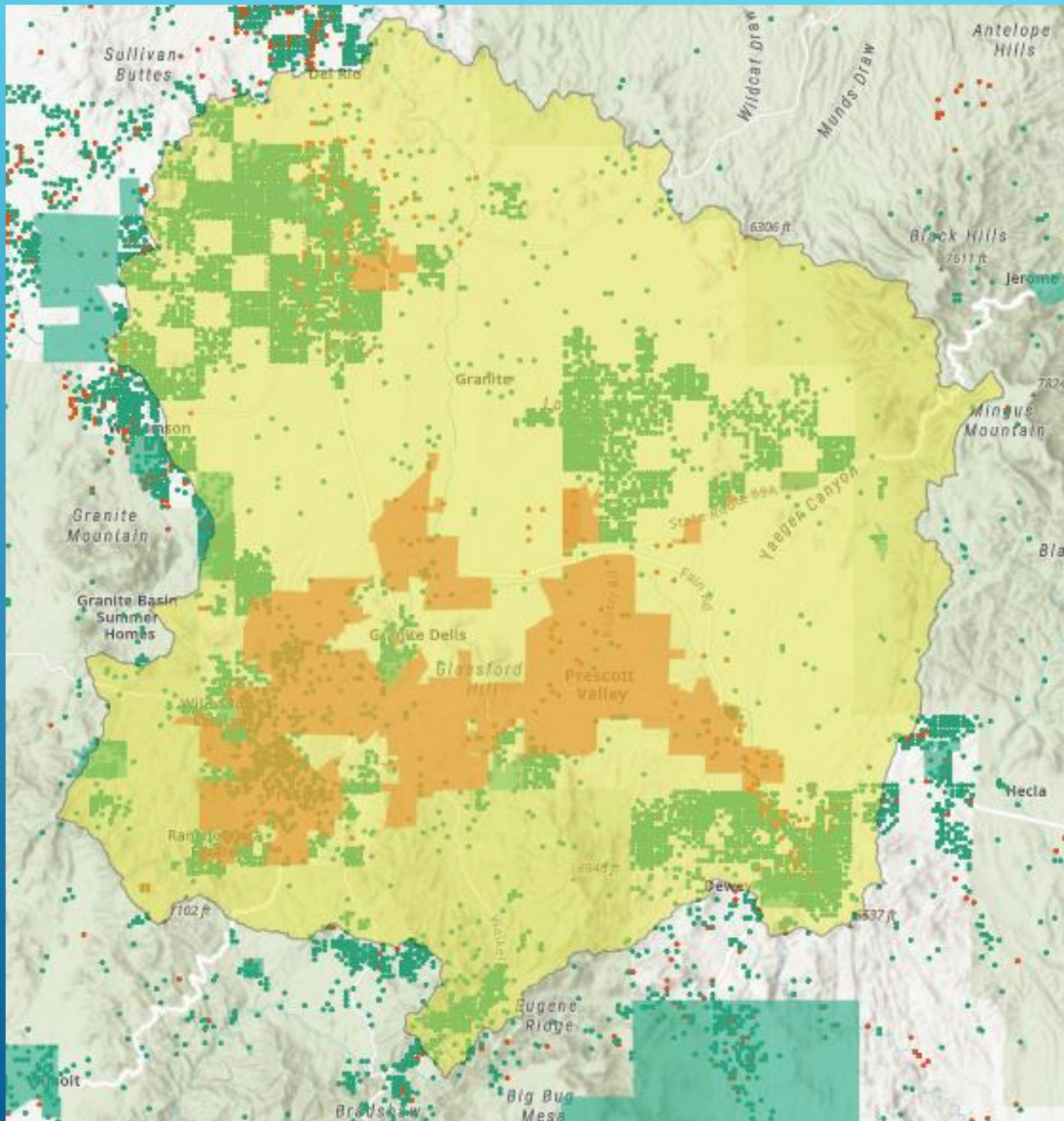
- ▶ DEVELOPMENT IS TAKING PLACE OUTSIDE SERVICE AREAS OF CWS THAT IS NOT REQUIRED TO MEET AMA REQUIREMENTS
- ▶ VOLUME OF WATER FROM AN EXEMPT WELL MAY EXCEED THE VOLUME FROM A CWS SERVICE CONNECTION
- ▶ UNREGULATED GROUNDWATER WITHDRAWALS CONFLICT WITH CWS MEETING THE LONG-TERM GOAL OF SAFE-YIELD



PRESCOTT AMA WATER WITHDRAWAL WELLS

GREEN: EXEMPT WELLS
ORANGE: NON-EXEMPT WELLS

<https://azwaterblueprint.asu.edu/>

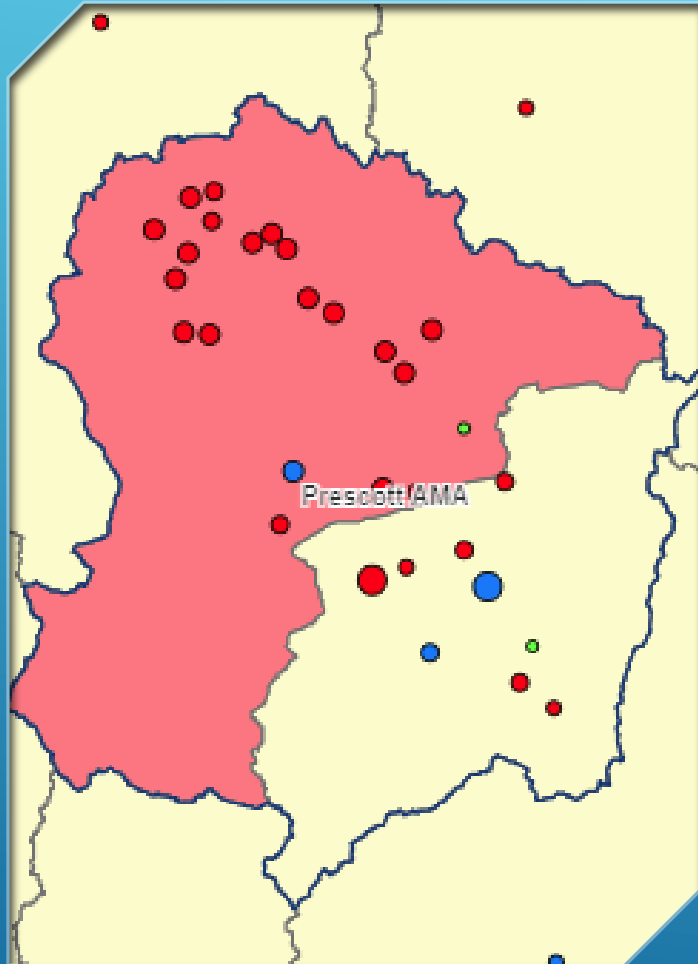


Prescott AMA

Orange Area: Community
Water System Service Areas

Green: Water Withdrawal
Exempt Wells

<https://azwaterblueprint.asu.edu/>



PRESCOTT AMA 20 YEAR WATER LEVEL CHANGES (▼ RED, ▲ BLUE)

Little Chino Valley sub-basin

2 wells increased, 19 wells declined

Upper Agua Fria sub-basin

2 wells increased, 6 wells declined

“12.2 THE DEPARTMENT’S PERSPECTIVE ON WATER MANAGEMENT IN THE PRESCOTT ACTIVE MANAGEMENT AREA

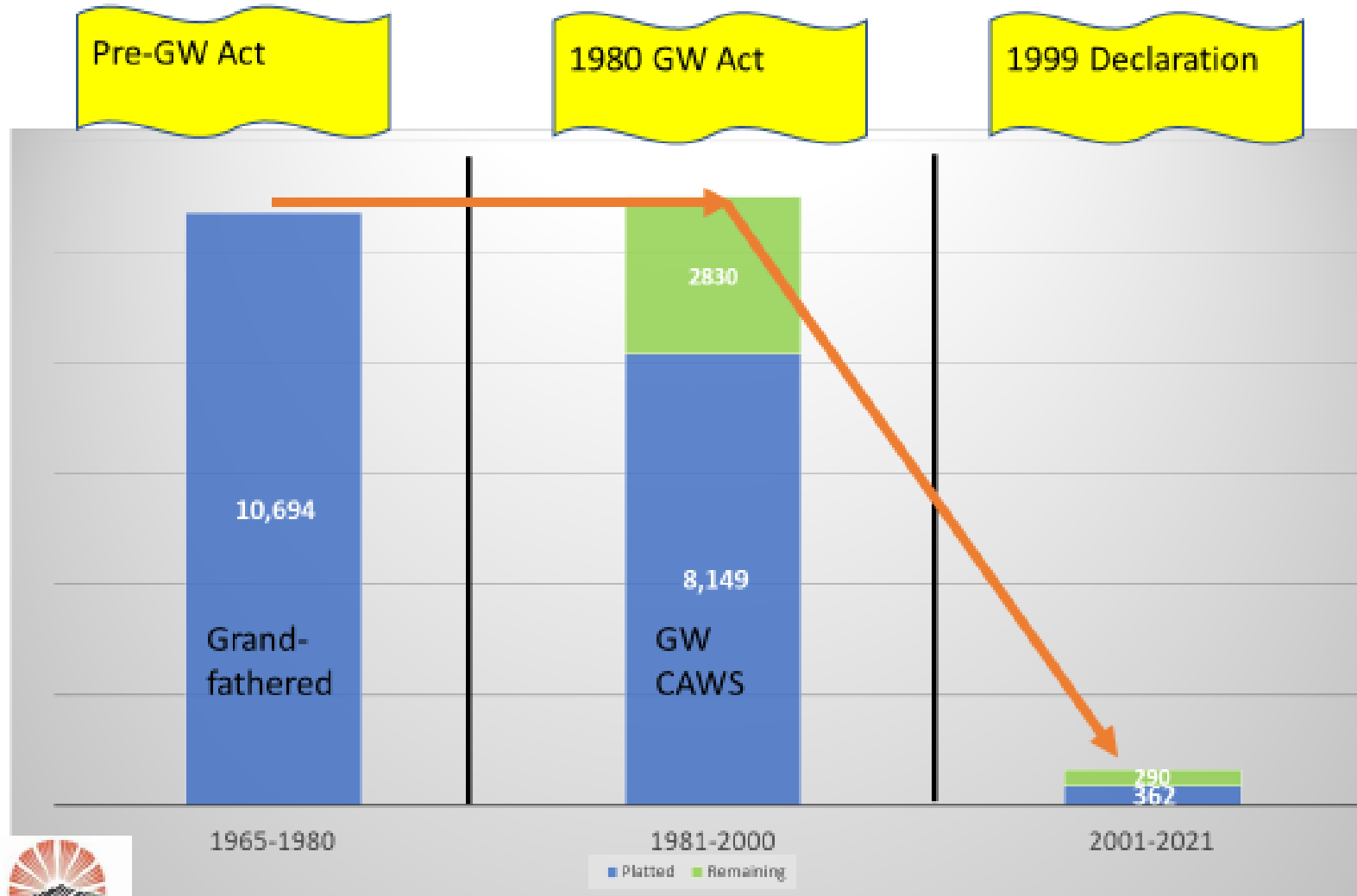
The Prescott AMA is not in safe yield. Current pumping is nearly double the safe-yield volume, with up to 10,000 acre-feet of additional growth on groundwater approved in advance of the limits imposed by the preliminary (August 1998) and final (January 1999) Declaration that the AMA is out of safe-yield...”

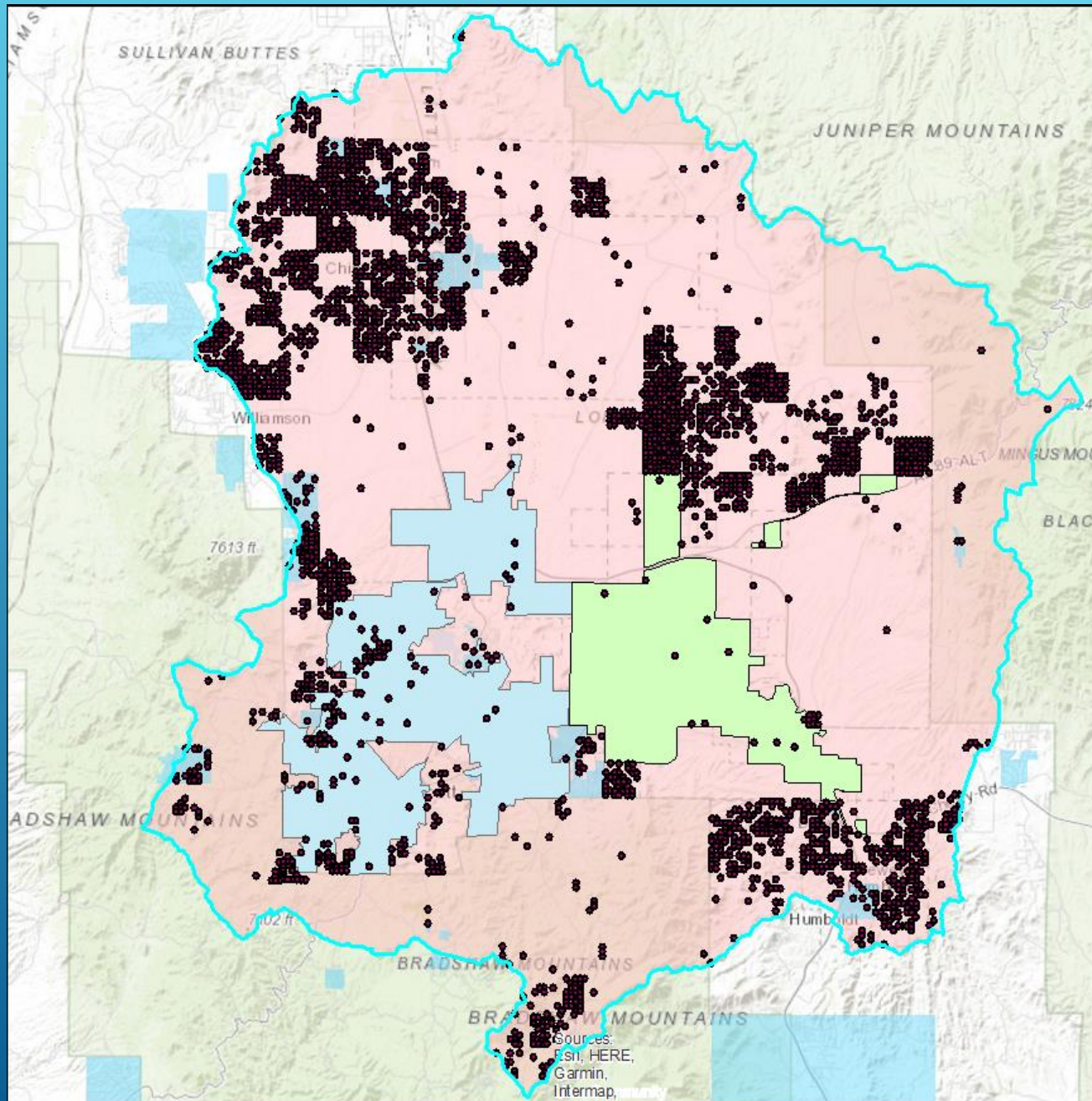
THIRD MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE PRESCOTT AMA

**Prescott AMA was determined to not be in safe-yield
In January 1999**

Three white lines of varying lengths and slopes are positioned in the bottom right corner of the slide, extending from the right edge towards the center.

Managed Growth in Prescott Valley Water Allocations (# of Residential Lots)





PRESCOTT AMA

EXEMPT WELL PERMITS
ISSUED SINCE 1999

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THIRD MANAGEMENT PLAN

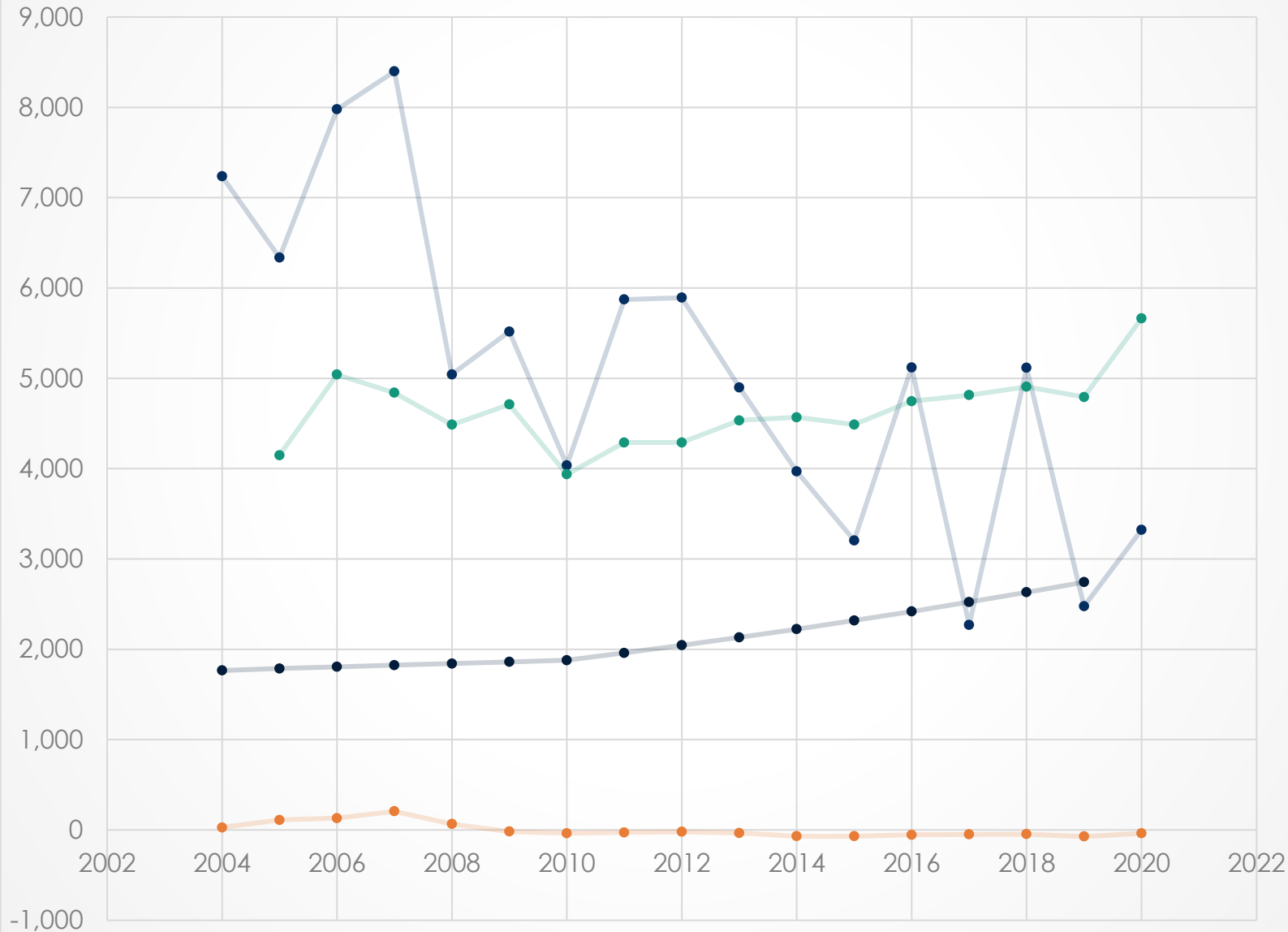
Potential programs to address new residential development not subject to assured water supply restrictions.

- Limit new exempt wells or impose conservation requirements
- Impose a fee paid to a regional authority for exempt wells so the regional authority can develop alternative supplies
- Change AWS Rules to eliminate dry lots > 20 lot exemption for safe-yield goal
- Require lot split development to contribute to a regional authority in some way
- Initiate incentives or requirements for connecting to central sewer system to facilitate effluent recharge

PrescottAMA_3MP.pdf (azwater.gov)

GW PUMPED - PERMANENT RECHARGE

Prescott Prescott Valley Chino Valley Exempt Wells



**PRESCOTT AMA
HISTORICAL SELECT
GROUNDWATER
DEMANDS**

DRILL DEEPER



HAUL WATER



CONNECT TO A CWS



WHAT HAPPENS WHEN AN EXEMPT WELL GOES DRY?

SELL????

RECOMMENDATION FOR LOT SPLITS AND DRY-LOT SUBDIVISIONS

- ▶ Engage with the Dept of Real Estate to require lot splits and dry-lot subdivisions in the Prescott AMA to follow the same AWS rules as other subdivisions

RECOMMENDATION FOR EXEMPTION TO CONNECT TO A WATER PROVIDER

- ▶ Amend A.R.S. § 45-454(D) to require all new wells within a municipal or private water company service area in the Prescott AMA to meet AWS requirements

RECOMMENDATION FOR WELL SPACING REQUIREMENTS

- ▶ Provide an exemption for municipal providers in the Prescott AMA from the requirement of not causing additional drawdown from new service area wells where exempt well owners within the service area have the ability to connect to the existing service provider water system but choose not to do so

QUESTIONS?

Comments can be emailed to Ron Doba at rdoba@cox.net

III. Next Steps



IV. Adjournment

